

## Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /058 W

----- 041589

R 301733Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2322

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 8468

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, BE, CG, AO

SUBJECT: BELGIUM-ZAIRE-PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES: LEBURTON VISIT

1. SUMMARY . ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT MOBUTU INFORMED VISITING BELGIAN SOCIALIST LEADER EDMOND LEBURTON THAT ZAIRE IS PREPARED TO RESUME MEETINGS WITH BELGIANS AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. BELGIANS, WHO HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED OFFICIALLY OF THIS DEVELOPMENT, WOULD BE PREPARED EVENTUALLY TO RESUME MEETINGS AFTER NECESSARY PREPARATIONS HAD BEEN MADE AT WORKING LEVEL. LEBURTON ALSO REPORTEDLY PLANS TO STUDY SITUATION OF ANGOLA AND CABINDA. END SUMMARY.

2. OMER MARCHAL REPORTS IN OCTOBER 30 EDION OF BELGIAN WEEKLY SPECIAL THAT DURING VISIT TO KINSHASA, WHERE HE ARRIVED OCTOBER 26, BELGIAN SOCIALIST LEADER AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER EDMOND LEBURTON OBTAINED PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S AGREEMENT TO RESUME MEETINGS OF BELGIAN-ZAIRIAN "MIXED COMMISSION," MOBUTU RENOUNCED COMMISSION EARLIER THIS YEAR AS RESULT OF JULES CHOME AFFAIR. ACCORDING TO MARCHAL, LEBURTON HAD SUGGESTED TO MOBUTU IN LETTER SEPTEMBER 26 THAT HE VISIT ZAIRE  
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TO RESUME BELGIAN-ZAIRIAN DIALOGUE AND THAT RETURN

OF ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR TO BRUSSELS ( WHICH TOOK PLACE  
EARLIER THIS MONTH) WOULD BE SIGN OF ZAIRIAN WILLINGNESS  
TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS.

3. WELL-PLACED SOURCES IN BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY  
HAVE COMMENTED T O US ON LEBURTON VISIT, WHICH IS UNOFFICIAL  
AND WAS NOT CORREDINATED IN ADVANCE WITH GOB. ACCORDING  
TO SOURCES, AFTER MEETING WITH MOBUTU, LEBURTON INFORMED  
BELGIAN EMBASSY THAT ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT HAD INDEED EXPRESSED  
WILLINGNESS TO RESUME MEETINGS OF "MIXED COMMISSION."  
ZAIRIANS, HOWEVER, HAVE NOT NOTIFIED GOB OFFICIALLY.  
SOURCES NOTE INACCURATE REFERENCE TO "MIXED  
COMMISSION", WHICH IS GENERALLY USED TO DESIGNATE  
DISCUSSIONS AT WORKING LEVEL. MEETINGS REVOKED BY  
MOBUTU WERE AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL AND IT IS PRESUMABLY  
THOSE TO WHICH HE REFERRED IN CONVERSATION WITH LEBURTON.  
SOURCES POINT OUT THAT CONTACTS ON BELGIAN-ZAIRIAN  
PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN UNDERWAY FOR SOME MONTHS AT  
WORKING LEVEL. GOB WOULD BE WILLING TO RENEW  
MISISTERIAL MEETING IS PROPER PREPARATION IS MADE  
AT WORKING LEVEL, BUT SEES NO GREAT HASTE AND IS NOT  
INCLINED TO RUSH "HAT IN HAND" TO SEEK SUCH MEETINGS.  
SOURCES INDICATED THEIR VIEW THAT MARCHAL, WHO  
THEY SAY IS ON MOBUTU'S PAYROLL, HAD GONE OUT OF HIS  
WAY TO PUT BEST POSSILBE FACE ON LEBURTON VISIT.  
THEY SAID, FOR INSTANCE, THAT RETURN OF AMBASSADOR  
ELEBE HAD BEEN ARRANGED WITHOUT LEBURTON'S HELP  
AND POINTED OUT THAT ARTICLE BLAME'S TINDEMANS  
GOVERNMENT FOR NOT TAKING ACTION AGAINST CHOME BOOK  
ALTHOUGH AFFAIR TOOK PLACE WHILE LEBURTON WAS STILL  
IN CARETAKER STATUS AS PRIME MINISTER.

4. FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES SEE RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE  
AS GRADUALLY IMPROVING, ALTOUGH AMBASSADOR ELEBE  
HAS REQUESTED MEETINGS WITH ON ONE AT FOREIGN MINISTRY  
SINCE HIS RETURN. (AT PRESENT HE IS TEMPORARITY BACK  
IN ZARIE.) ONE SOURCE ALSO SPOKE APPROVINGLY OF ARTICLE  
ON LEBURTON VISIT IN DE STANDAARD, IN WHICH NOTED  
JOURNALIST MANU RUYS COMMENTS THAT RELATIONSHIP WITH ZAIRE  
IS IMPORTANT PART OF BUT DOES NOT DOMINATE BELGIAN FOREIGN  
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POLICY AND THAT REVERSE IS TRUE OF BELGIUM FOR ZAIRE. PRIME  
MINISTER TINDEMANS, RUYS WRITES, WANTS TO ATTAIN  
OBJECTIVE BASIS OF RELATIONS, IN WHICH NEITHER  
COUNTRY SACRIFICES DIGNITY AND BOTH SIDES CAN HONESTLY  
PUT FORTH VIES. THERE IS BASE FOR FUTURE, THOUGH  
REDUCED, COOPERATION BUT RAPPROCEMENT WILL BE BEST  
FOUNDED ON GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT CONTACTS RATHER  
THAN THOSE ARANGED BY OPPOSITION LEADERS. (RUYS NOTES

IN PASSING THAT FRANCOPHONE SOCIALIST PRESIDENT, ANDRE COALS, AND HEIR APPARENT TO FLEMISH SOCIALIST PRESIDENCY, WILLY CLAES, ARE TO VISIT ZAIRE BEFORE THE END OF YEAR).

5. MARCHAL ARTICLE ALSO INTERESTING FOR ITS REPORT ON PLANS OF LEBURTON, AS INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST LEADER, TO STUDY PROSPECTS FOR INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA AND CABINDA. THIS HE REPORTEDLY INTENDS TO DO THROUGH CONVERSATIONS WITH MOBUTU, A VISIT TO ANGOLA, AND MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF FLNA, MPLA-CHIPENDA, AND LFEC IN KINSHASA. MARCHAL COMMENTS THAT IN MEETING WITH MOBUTU, LEBURTON LEARNED IMPORTANCE OF ZAIRIAN ROLE IN DECOLONIZATION OF THOSE TERRITORIES AS WELL AS FACT THAT ANY POLITICAL SOLUTION THAT DOES NOT PASS THROUGH KINSHASA WILL FAIL. MARCHAL EXPRESSES BELIEF THAT LEBURTON WILL REPORT HIS FINDINGS TO PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES AFTER RETURNING TO EUROPE.

6. AS THIRD ASPECT OF LEBURTON VISIT, MARCHAL CITES ITS POSSIBLE IMPORTANCE TO FUTURE BELGIAN-ANGOLAN RELATIONS IN VIEW OF IMPORTANT BELGIAN INVESTMENT IN ANGOLA IN VARIOUS SECTORS, INCLUDING OIL, DIAMONDS, RAILROADS, AND BREWERIES. FIRESTONE

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